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Obituaries

Adm. Roscoe Hillenkoetter, first CIA director, dies

Retired Navy Vice Adm. Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter, 85, a former battleship commander who became the first director of the Central Intelligence Agency, died Friday in Mount Sinai Hospital in New York. He lived in Weehawken, N.J.

In 1947, Adm. Hillenkoetter was serving as the third director of the Central Intelligence Group, succeeding Rear Adm. Sidney W. Sours and Lt. Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg, when the National Security Act of 1947 created the CIA. He automatically became the first director of the CIA and was succeeded in that position in 1950 by Gen. Walter Bedell Smith.

Adm. Hillenkoetter left the CIA after requesting to be returned to sea duty following the North Korean invasion of South Korea. During the Korean War he was commander of Cruiser Group 2.

He later became commandant of the 3rd Naval District in New York and was inspector general of the Navy when he retired in 1957. He was promoted to vice admiral in 1956.

After his retirement, Adm. Hillenkoetter lived in Weehawken and was for a number of years vice chairman, vice president and treasurer of the Hegeman-Harris Co. Inc.

Adm. Hillenkoetter, a native of St. Louis, was a 1920 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. In the summer of 1918 he served on the battleship Minnesota on duty with the Atlantic Fleet during World War I. He was commissioned in 1919.

In 1940 and early 1941 he was naval attaché to the Vichy government of France and he worked with the French underground to help men hunted by the Germans flee to safety.

Later in 1941 he became executive officer of the battleship West Virginia and was wounded during the attack on Pearl Harbor. He next became executive officer of the battleship Maryland and was an intelligence officer for the commander in chief of the Pacific Ocean area.

Later during World War II, Adm. Hillenkoetter commanded the destroyer Dixie and was awarded the Bronze Star for commanding that vessel during campaigns in the Solomon and New Hebrides islands.

Adm. Hillenkoetter was award the Legion of Merit while serving as assistant director of planning and control in the Bureau of Naval Personnel here.

After the Japanese surrender in 1945, Adm. Hillenkoetter was named commander of the battleship Missouri, on which he returned to the United States in 1946. He returned to Paris later that year as naval attaché, his third duty tour there.

He was promoted to rear admiral in 1947 and was assigned special duties in the office of the secretary of the Navy. His next assignment was director of the Central Intelligence Group.

He is survived by his wife, the former Jane Clark, and a daughter, Jane Saar.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday in the Fort Myer Chapel, with burial in Arlington National Cemetery.

Roscoe Hillenkoetter First Director Of CIA, Retiree From Navy, Dies

From News Services

Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter, 85, a retired Navy vice admiral and the first director of the CIA, died Friday night at Mount Sinai Hospital. The cause of death was not reported. He had lived in Weehawken, N.J., since 1958.

In a career that spanned more than 40 years, Adm. Hillenkoetter served in World War II and commanded a Navy task force in the Korean War. Adm. Hillenkoetter, while a Naval attache to the French Vichy government in 1940 and 1941, had worked with the French underground and helped hunted persons flee to safety.

Adm. Hillenkoetter was wounded in the attack on Pearl Harbor, while serving as executive officer of the battleship West Virginia. Later in the war, he organized intelligence operations for Pacific Fleet commander, Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz, and commanded a destroyer in the Pacific.

He later served as the Navy's director of planning and control in Washington and was awarded the



1952 AP photo

ROSCOE HILLENKOETTER

Legion of Merit. After the war, his posts included those of commanding officer of the battleship Missouri, and head of the Brooklyn Navy Yard and the Third Naval District.

The CIA was established by Congress in 1947. Adm. Hillenkoetter served as director from that time until October 1950. After North Korean forces invaded South Korea in June 1950, the admiral asked to be returned to sea duty, and commanded the heavy cruiser St. Paul and a naval task force. He retired from active duty in 1958.

He was born in St. Louis and was a 1919 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis after having served with the Atlantic fleet in World War I.

Survivors include his wife, the former Jane Clark, and a daughter, Jane Saar.

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Adm. Roscoe Hillenkoetter, First Director of U.S. Intelligence, Dies

By PETER KIHSS

Vice Adm. Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter, the first director of the Central Intelligence Agency, died Friday night at Mount Sinai Hospital. He was 85 years old and had lived in Weehawken, N.J., since his retirement from the Navy in 1958.

After his C.I.A. service, Admiral Hillenkoetter served as commander of a Navy task force in the Korean War.

Capt. Joshua L. Goldberg of the Navy, the former Third Naval District chaplain, said yesterday that the admiral was "a symbol of what an American should be." He said the admiral, while a Naval attaché to the Vichy Government of France in 1940 and 1941, had worked with the French underground and helped men hunted by the Germans to escape to safety.

"He was modest, and people who served under him just loved him," Captain Goldberg said. A former C.I.A. official, Lyman B. Kirkpatrick, has recalled him as "an able officer, an enjoyable person."

Wounded at Pearl Harbor

Admiral Hillenkoetter was wounded in the attack on Pearl Harbor, when the battleship West Virginia, of which he was executive officer, was sunk. He organized an intelligence network for Adm. Chester W. Nimitz and commanded a destroyer in Pacific combat during the war.

He later served as the Navy's director of planning and control in Washing-

ton and was awarded the Legion of Merit.

After the war, he commanded the battleship Missouri on a good-will cruise to the Mediterranean, and commanded the Navy Yard in Brooklyn and the Third Naval District.

The C.I.A. was established by Congress in 1947 as a successor to the World War II Office of Special Services and the peacetime Central Intelligence Group. Rear Adm. Sidney W. Souers, the first director of the Central Intelligence Group, was succeeded by Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg of the Air Force and then by Admiral Hillenkoetter, who was appointed by President Truman on May 1, 1947.

After the C.I.A. was established in September 1947, Admiral Hillenkoetter served as the director until he was succeeded by Gen. Walter Bedell Smith of the Army in October 1950.

Soon after Congress formed the C.I.A., the National Security Council adopted a directive on Dec. 19, 1947, ordering "covert activities" to oppose Communist and leftist parties in Italy's forthcoming parliamentary elections.

Despite an opinion from the counsel for the C.I.A. that his agency had no such power legally, Admiral Hillenkoetter authorized money to be provided to Italy's centrist political parties, which remained in power.

The security council on June 10, 1948, ordered further covert programs to counter Soviet efforts, specifying that, if detected, they could be disavowed by the United States. Included were "propaganda, economic warfare; preventive direct action, including sabotage, anti-sabotage, demolition and evacuation measures; subversion against hostile states, including assistance to underground resistance groups and support of indigenous anti-Communist elements in threatened countries of the free world."

After North Korean forces invaded South Korea in June 1950, the admiral asked to be returned to sea duty. From

November 1950 until September 1951 he commanded the heavy cruiser St. Paul and a task force that provided cover for South Korean forces advancing up the eastern coast, for their retreat before Chinese Communist invaders, and for the landing at Inchon of forces led by General of the Army Douglas MacArthur.

Admiral Hillenkoetter was born in St. Louis, Mo., May 8, 1897. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1919 after having served with the Atlantic fleet in World War I.

After his retirement from the Navy, Admiral Hillenkoetter served as chief executive officer of the American Banner Line, which operating to Belgium and the Netherlands in 1958 and 1959. In 1962 he joined a New York construction company, Hegeman-Harris, as vice chairman.

He is survived by his wife, the former Jane Clark, and a daughter, Jane Saar. Burial will be at Arlington National Cemetery at 11 A.M. Thursday.